THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) During 1998-99 (FY), a quantity of 14,14,369 MT wheat was imported from Australia at an expenditure of Rs. 100601.26 lakh.

(b) to (d) In course of its inquiry into the allegations of irregularities in import of wheat from Australian Wheat Board the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had sent Letter Rogatory to the Australian Government for information regarding payment of US$ 2.5 millions (Rs. 11.25 crores) into a Cayman Island Account. As the Australian Authorities did not furnish required information, the CBI closed its inquiry in the year 2004. However on fresh media reports, the CBI has written to the Indian High Commissioner that if the Australian Authorities are ready to cooperate even at this belated stage and furnish necessary evidence, the CBI would promptly examine reopening of the investigation and take the matter to its logical conclusion.

Shortage of sugar in PDS

1215. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of sugar in the Public Distribution System as well as in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of sugar stock in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to overcome the shortage of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) There is no shortage of non-levy (free sale) sugar in the country. However, it has not been possible to supply levy sugar as per the levy quota to each State/UT as the levy obligation on sugar factories has been reduced to 10% with effect from 1.3.2002. A statement showing state-wise stocks of sugar, as on 31st July in each of the last three sugar seasons (October-September) is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Stocks of Sugar as on 31st July of 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 Sugar Seasons

(Figures in Lakh Tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	2002-2003 Season (P)	2003-2004 Season (P)	2004-2005 Season (P)
1.	Punjab	4.59	3.57	1.31
2.	Haryana	5.43	5.29	2.36
3.	Rajasthan	0.05	0.10	0.02
4.	Uttaranchal	3.71	3.34	1.92
5.	Uttar Pradesh	26.22	38.93	27.56
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.57	0.40	0.18
7.	Chhattisgarh	0.01	0.02	0.01
8.	Gujarat	9.36	9.07	5.65
9.	Maharashtra	50.20	35.16	17.40
10.	Bihar	2.09	1.61	1.41
11.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Orissa	0.23	0.16	0.16
13.	West Bengal	0.02	0.02	0.01
14.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Andhra Pradesh	8.43	5.28	5.04
16.	Karnataka	10.18	6.46	4.47
17.	Tamil Nadu	11.57	8.22	10.03
18.	Pondicherry	0.35	0.26	0.13
19.	Kerala	0.03	0.01	0.00
20.	Goa	0.10	0.11	0.08
	ALL INDIA	133.14	118.01	77.74

P-Provisional